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THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 2013

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For news updated daily see www.inportnews.ca

PHILANTHROPY: Port man would like every child to have a bicycle

Sending bikes to Cuba

ALLAN BENNER
(QMI Agency Niagara)

A young girl named Wendy is overjoyed to be riding around her community on a bicycle that Aubrey Foley repaired and shipped to her.

Wendy's father Luis sent Foley an e-mail last week thanking the 69-year-old Port Colborne resident for the bike — something the Cuban family would likely have never been able to afford.

"I want to say again, a million times thank you," Luis wrote in the e-mail. "God knows how grateful we feel ... My Wendy has wanted a bike for years and we could never do it until now."

While bicycles are a mode of transportation taken for granted among children here, Foley said they're relatively rare for children in Cuba.



ALLAN BENNER/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

See **BIKES** Page 2

Aubrey Foley works on a bicycle in the garage of his Port Colborne home. He's looking for people interested in donating used repairable bicycles to be shipped to people in Cuba. For more information call 905-834-1250.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ DENTAL HEALTH CARE

Open wide and answer the survey

MELISSA MANGELSEN
Import News Staff

People struggling with dental health issues now have an outlet to have their problems heard.

Bridges Community Health Centre has launched a survey targeted at people living in Port Colborne, Wainfleet and Port Erie to learn more about the dental health needs there.

"There are so many people who lack coverage for dental care, which leads to costly outcomes," said Lori Klein-smith, a health promoter at Bridges. "In 2012 alone, there were over 1,900 visits to Niagara's emergency rooms for dental health issues such as pain and abscesses at a cost of over \$1 million."

Klein-smith said Bridges has heard a lot of stories from its clients who deal with a lack of dental coverage, but this is its first time conducting a survey for numbers to support what they already know.

"Canada is known around the world for its universal health care, but when talking about health the mouth seems to get left out," she said.

Ideally, she would like to see universal coverage for Canadians for dental health. But that's something she said is unlikely.

"The government needs to decide if it wants to keep pay-

ing the emergency room costs that the lack of dental coverage is causing, or go ahead and use that money in preventative care," she said. "At the minimum, we'd like to see people be able to obtain emergency coverage or cleaning."

Seniors over age 65 who have retired are most affected by the lack of coverage.

"Seniors are losing out as soon as their benefits through work end, and that's if they have benefits in the first place. They have very limited coverage or none at all," said Klein-smith.

She said she also sees a lot of employed people without coverage who have to have teeth pulled because they couldn't afford the preventative care.

"It costs a lot less to maintain than to extract," she said.

Poor dental hygiene takes a toll on people's self-esteem.

"That's just one of the issues. It's been linked to Alzheimer's and heart disease. It also creates a barrier for those who are seeking employment," said Klein-smith. "I've heard firsthand from people who have been looked over for jobs just because of their dental hygiene."

Studies have also linked poor dental hygiene to bullying, social well-being, quality of life, oral cancer, diabetes



MARYANNE FURTH/OMIA GENCY NIAGARA

Bridges Community Health Centre has launched a survey to look at the issues the community is facing regarding dental hygiene coverage. Students in Niagara are fortunate enough to see dental clinics pop up in their schools to provide treatment to youth with no access to dental coverage.

and respiratory disease.

"It amazes me that this isn't more of an issue," Klein-smith said.

The survey was launched last week and has gathered more than 200 responses. It can be completed at www.bridgeschc.ca or in person at 1485 Garrison Rd. in Port Erie and 1777 King St. in Port Colborne.

The survey was launched last week and has gathered more than 200 responses. It can be completed at www.bridgeschc.ca or in person at 1485 Garrison Rd. in Port Erie and 1777 King St. in Port Colborne.

Paper surveys are also available at Port Cares and the Salvation Army. The survey will close March 31.

■ BIKES

Every child deserves to have their own bike

FROM PAGE A1

"A \$100 bike for them would be like you and I buying a brand new truck or a Cadillac," he said.

But that's something Foley hopes to change.

"My goal, if I could, would be to leave this Earth 'til I like to know that I've given a bicycle to every child in Cuba who can't afford to have one," he said.

Foley is an avid cyclist.

When he isn't riding his bike all over Niagara, he's fixing up used bikes in his garage.

He calls his shop The Broken Spoke, but he charges little for the work he does. He said it's just a hobby and a way to keep busy doing something he enjoys.

But lately, in addition to repairing bikes for neigh-

bourhood children, Foley has been fixing up bicycles and packaging them up to ship to Cuba.

He said a second bike he sent to Cuba was delivered to an eight-year-old boy on Sunday, and two more bikes are being shipped in the next few days.

"I have 20 bicycles right now ready to go to Cuba," Foley

said. But he needs a lot more before he reaches his goal, and he's asking people with old bikes to donate them.

"Anyone, if you have a bicycle that is repairable or that you're not using anymore and you don't need it, you can either drop it off here and I can guarantee you that the bicycle will be refurbished and it'll be

going into one of the boxes that will be going to Cuba," Foley said.

He's also looking for people planning a vacation in Cuba, willing to bring a bike with them when they go. The tourists are welcome to use the bicycle during their trip, but when they return to Canada they leave the bicycle behind for a family in Cuba.

Foley said it's rewarding to know that the "hand-to-hand" donations are directly helping people.

"If it's hand-to-hand, I'll give my last pair of shoes and I'll take the shirt off my back to help any child right not today," he said.

alan.bonner@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @abonner1

LOCAL NEWS

■ **HEARINGS:** Skydive Burnaby fails to argue harm will occur to its members, Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc. lawyer says

Likelihood of harm main issue in dispute

GREG FURNINGER
QMI Agency Niagara

If two wind turbines are constructed nearby Skydive Burnaby, it will only be a matter of time before someone from the parachuting club is killed, says a lawyer representing the business in its battle with Wainfleet Wind Energy Inc.

But the legal team representing turbine stakeholders said Friday that she's sheer speculation, and, as an environmental review tribunal hearing wrapped up at the township's firefighters memorial hall after three weeks of testimony, that Skydive Burnaby has failed to prove a tragedy will happen.

Lawyer Scott Stoll, representing Tom Rankin-owned Wainfleet Wind Energy and its partner the Loeffen family, said, as an appellant to the project approved by the Environmental Ministry, the onus is on Skydive Burnaby to demonstrate the turbines will have a negative impact — not may. During the hearings' closing arguments Friday, he also said

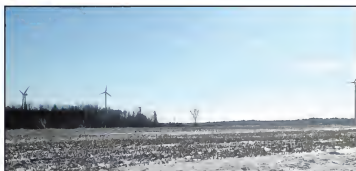
any risk to skydivers would be "abnormal," basing his statement on appellant testimony that at times referred to turbines being a navigation risk subsequent to a parachute failure.

A turbine cannot be a cause of a collision — it's a point of impact, he said.

Calling Skydive Burnaby an "Internet business" that operates only a few months of the year during daylight hours, and whose members sign waivers acknowledging risks, Stoll said the club can change its flight plans — not turbine for wind conditions — if it deems turbines a risk to its members.

He also said the business has no rights to airspace over the project site, at Station Rd. near Concession 1. Any decision by the tribunal other than to allow the turbine project to proceed as planned would be tantamount to expropriation of his client's property, Stoll said.

Lawyer Eric Gillespie, speaking for Skydive Burnaby owners Mike and Tara Pitt, ear-



The first of Wainfleet Wind Energy's turbines are pictured south of the township centre.

GREG FURNINGER / QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

lier Friday argued about turbines being not only a physical obstacle, but ones that cause turbulence.

"This is a hearing essentially about parachuting, about skydiving," Gillespie said.

"It's not a question of if there's going to be a serious accident, but when," he said. "We can't afford to have

one event because the effect is going to be very serious or fatal."

Ministry counsel Nadine Harris, who echoed many comments made by Stoll, said the severity of harm that could be incurred by striking a turbine should have no extra bearing on the tribunal's decision.

"The test is: will cause serious harm," she said.

Gillespie had argued that for the 10,000 jumps each year at Skydive Burnaby, there is a probability for 10 malfunctions. He said that's enough of a risk to warrant the turbines not be built some 1.5 kilometres from the skydiving club, and that the tribunal to rule

otherwise would be taking "a gamble."

If there's a parachute failure, a skydiver has only seconds to react then subsequently adjust. He said a parachute in distress can't simply steer around a 140-metre-tall turbine tower and its 90-metre blades.

He said there's a "massive difference" between being able to train skydivers to avoid a 10-metre-tall utility pole or trees and a 30-storey-tall turbine.

The case at hand, he noted, will set a Canadian precedent for proximity of turbines to established skydiving clubs.

"Rarely killing somebody ... doesn't come close to being acceptable for a project like this," Gillespie said.

Hearing chairman Dirk Vandenberg closed the hearings after nearly six hours of submissions Friday, but did leave an opening for possible submissions regarding mitigation.

No indication of when a ruling could follow was offered.

greg.furninger@sunmedia.ca

■ **CULTURE:** Aboriginal culture taught at school symposium

Symposium teaches aboriginal culture

MELISSA MANGENSEN
Inport News Staff

As a student Wendy Wilson wasn't able to embrace her aboriginal culture until after high school.

"There was a lot of negativity and stereotypes. I'm constantly learning about my identity and struggling with it," said Wilson, who is now a teacher at St. Elizabeth School in Wainfleet. Aboriginal people have a colourful culture that varies depending on their ancestors' primary way of life or occupation when the Europeans came to the continent. They invented the canoe, snowshoes, toboggan, lacrosse, tug-of-war and maple syrup.

The elementary school launched a two-day Aboriginal Symposium Tuesday to share the culture with stu-

dents and to raise awareness.

The aboriginal influence has been seen all around us. The word Canada came from the St. Lawrence Iroquoian word meaning village or settlement.

Wilson, who teaches Grades 1 and 2, said she took on the project because she is aboriginal.

Nyla Hickey, a Grade 8 student, also came on board to help with the symposium.

"Nyla was a great choice because she's aboriginal and is walking her own spiritual journey to learn more about her identity, too," Wilson said. "People aren't exposed to the culture a lot. By hosting this symposium we hope to share the teachings, and teach students about Mother Earth and how we need to protect her," she said.

The students study First

Nations in their curriculum, but the symposium was an opportunity to have a more hands-on approach.

"It's one thing to read about First Nations people from a textbook, but it's a totally different experience to see it first hand. It's a more enriched experience for the students," Wilson said.

Tuesday morning didn't start off as planned as the Ohniakara Singers, who were scheduled to perform had to cancel at the last minute. They are a First Nations drum and dance group whose name means "the neck between two bodies of water." In Mohawk, Ohniakara is the origin of the English word for Niagara.

Wilson said it's their collective belief that music is medicine.

"Various teachings from our diverse cultural background

reflect this. Whereas, all people are an integral part of the Mother Earth family and the drum represents her heartbeat. There is no word for drum in our languages," said Wilson.

Despite the disappointment of Ohniakara canceling, the school continued on with the symposium welcoming Aaron Bell and Earl Dionne.

Bell is an Ojibway storyteller who shares his stories with teachers and students. Dionne presented *Woodland Visions* to the students, which is a fire art program he has designed.

"His programs were designed to bring calmness, creativity and a sense of well-being to the people he works with," Wilson said.

Students in the junior grades were also a short



JULIE JOCKAR / QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Ojibway storyteller Aaron Bell entertains and educates with his stories of aboriginal culture.

presentation about smudging and fire teachings, which teach the value of respect, observance and how to be a good community member. The burning session is relaxing and students were encour-

aged to burn away unwanted emotions or stress as the precess brings beauty to their projects.

melissa.mangensen@sunmedia.ca
Twitter: @Briannemilisa

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■ ourview

Need your help with Faces of Poverty project

Poverty looks a lot different than what we see on commercials.

It is affecting people in our own towns, neighbours, friends and family.

Ontario announced a higher minimum wage rising from \$10.25 or \$11 per hour, but that isn't enough to get workers above the poverty line.

Many people facing poverty are the working class poor who are making up the 15% making less than \$20,000.

It's the single mother struggling to balance work and taking care of her children, young workers who are just starting out, long-retired seniors whose monthly income doesn't cover rising living expenses and it's the worker not getting paid enough to pay off school loans.

It's the factory worker who finds himself suddenly out of work and stuck paying for an expensive mortgage, car payments and school tuition for his kids.

Of Niagara's children, nearly 16% live in poverty. Of Niagara's residents, more than 45% spend more than 30% of their income on rent.

If you think you know the "type" of person using food banks, you're wrong. People struggling to survive and desperate for the

services offered by organizations helping those in need pass the diversities of age, cultures, occupations, marital status and geographic location.

The face of poverty has morphed - no longer does it only reflect the margins of society.

If it's not already you, today, it could be you tomorrow.

So what can we do about it? As a region? As a community?

As a group of newspapers in Niagara and beyond, we can talk about it. We can raise the profile of the issue and open people's eyes to the realities of poverty all around us.

Over the coming months, you'll have the opportunity to read stories, see videos and listen to discussions as part of our ongoing Faces of Poverty project.

To do this, to show the true cost of poverty in Niagara, we need your help. We need you to share your experiences and talk without shame or reservation about the struggles of being poor.

Poverty in Niagara impacts all aspects of society from education and children's health to crime and addiction. We want to shed light on a hugely important issue affecting tens of thousands of people in Niagara, and help champion changes to make life better for those around us.

Delayed on the road to your destiny?

JEVIA SAM
Special to QMI Agency Niagara

So Iqbal and I were driving on the QEW toward the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie for a shopping foray into the United States one afternoon. We had carefully checked traffic reports and border crossing times to ensure that we could get to the Walden Galleria without delay.

The drive from St. Catharines to Niagara Falls was a motorist's dream. Very few vehicles, all driving at or above the posted limit of 100 km/hour. Once we got past Eramosa, it was a different story. We could see a red streak of brake lights ahead of us. Now we were forced to slow down to 40 km/hour or less.

Quite likely there was an accident somewhere down the line, eh? Sure enough, we saw some flashing lights in the distance that seemed to confirm this suspicion.

As we got closer though, we realized that the blue lights were not from police cruisers, but snowploughs. Not two, but three, both snowploughs, one beside the other, forcibly removing the snow off the asphalt. On the one hand, it was frustrating to slow down. Yet, on the other hand, we realized that this temporary inconvenience

would actually help us move faster as we headed further down the road.

None of us likes to be slowed down as we move towards our destiny. We would rather get there sooner than later. Yet, isn't it true that sometimes we are forced to crawl rather than sprint on this journey?

It is as though God slows us down on one stretch of the highway so we can accelerate as we get closer to our destiny.

Consider the life of the Biblical character Joseph recorded in Genesis 37-41. His dreams clearly painted a destiny where he would be lifted high above the rest of his family.

The journey to stardom did not start out smoothly though, did it? First his brothers threw him in a pit and promptly sold him as a slave. Things did look bright momentarily when he was entrusted with the management of Potiphar's household in Egypt. But when he spurned the advances of his master's wife, he was falsely accused of sexual assault and thrown into prison.

Joseph must have wondered about all these "bad breaks" that were slowing his progress on the road to his destiny—even though he was doing all the right things.

It was only in retrospect that he could see the purpose behind the delay.

You see, God had to clear the way for him to become prime minister of Egypt, just as the snowploughs had to clear the pavement cleared for us to speed into the U.S. The timing had to be just right.

Have you noticed how quickly his promotion came about? In a mere matter of minutes, he had moved from the prison to the palace. Wow!

Dear friend, perhaps you too are frustrated at being slowed down in the speedy pursuit of your destiny.

If you, like Joseph, have been doing all the right things, and honouring God every step of the way, then take heart! It could very well be God who has dispatched heaven's snowploughs to pave the way for you to accelerate into your destiny just a short distance down the road... praise God.

"Wait on the Lord, and keep His way, and He shall exalt you to inherit the land" (Psalm 37:34).

Joan Sam pastors both United Church in Welland Township—Forsyth Road & Morgan's Point. He also releases destiny-awakening revelations such as this post at www.destinywordoftruth.com

■ readers' views

NEW SITE MAKES SENSE

I have been reading letters to the editor recently that I find to be geographically incorrect. I am not an expert geographer, but I do possess what most seem not to—topographical maps of Niagara. Perhaps, I can provide some factual data to place the potential new site location in perspective. The distance as the crow flies between the two proposed sites (Hwy 140 and East Main St. versus Lynn's Creek Rd. and Montrose Rd.) is only eight kilometres. By road, it is 10-11 kilometres. The Lynn's Creek site is only 45 miles farther north than the Hwy 140 site. The Niagara peninsula is about 45 kilometres wide in a north-south line through the proposed Lynn's Creek site. Niagara-on-the-Lake being 28 kilometres north and Oriskany Beach is 36 kilometres south of the proposed site. On this line, the proposed Lynn's Creek site is in the "southern half" of Niagara. Both locations have their merits, but close access to the QEW is a compelling positive for the Lynn's Creek site. The new hospital needs to be closest to the two largest population centres it will serve. Since Niagara Falls' population is slightly larger than Welland's population, a slight bias in that direction is rational. Let's get over this and just build it.

JEFFREY WHITEHALL
WELLAND

EUTHANASIA ISN'T NECESSARY

To withdraw or withhold medical treatment is not euthanasia or assisted suicide. This is allowing a person to die naturally. Providing pain and symptom relief, even proper high doses, is called palliative care, and is not euthanasia. Appropriate use of sedation will not hasten death or prevent

natural death. Euthanasia is a direct intentional killing by lethal injection. The person dies from the lethal dose, not from their medical condition. Assisted suicide is when one assists, encourages or prescribes a lethal dose. Countries that have legalized euthanasia show deaths occur without request or consent. Elder abuse is problematic. Most pain can be controlled and alleviated without legalizing euthanasia or assisted suicide.

WILMA JANSEN
JORDAN STATION

ARTICLE WAS SPOILED

Grant LaFleche spoiled his article on the proposed South Niagara hospital with his insult to those denying evolution. To say they end up looking like the "foolish" is a bit unfair to the many intelligent atheist. Grant doesn't have much choice but to believe in the theory of evolution and we have to be respectful of his opinion. However here are a few "facts" that Grant and others should know: The fossil evidence from thousands of years ago shows not a trace of evolution. Animals and man seem to have suddenly appeared. The origin of life is the Achille's heel of evolution since scientists have shown that the chances of assembling even one living cell is virtually impossible. Many prominent scientists have come to the conclusion that there is an intelligent designer behind all creation. Michael Denton, a molecular biologist says it best: "Evolutionary theory is still, as it was in Darwin's time, a highly speculative hypothesis entirely without factual support." I think Grant needs to study all the facts before making his comments and conclusions. I will respect, without insult, his choice to believe or not to believe. Oh and by the way, a lion is actually the most

handsome of all clever diving birds. So maybe Grant's intended insult can actually be considered as flattery to those of us who believe in both God and creation.

HARRY HUIZTER
ST. CATHARINES

A BETTER OPTION

I have been very disturbed by all the talk and plans to abandon the three area hospitals and build a new one near Niagara Falls. Picture this — you live in one of the rural areas of Welland/Eramosa, Port Colborne, Port Erie or Crystal Beach. There has just been a heavy snowfall and you've had a heart attack or have fallen and injured. The snowploughs are busy clearing the roads. The ambulance is stuck in the mud. By the time an ambulance can get to you and take you to this new hospital out in the middle of nowhere, you will probably be dead. If such a thing were to happen, I would hope the survivors of the deceased would sue those involved in making the decision to close our existing hospitals. I would like to suggest what I think is a far better location. There is a very large piece of vacant land along the east side of the canal between the old John Deen property and the old Union Carbide property. I don't know if the city owns it, but I believe it is worth looking into. It is a chance John Deen owns it, they might be able to donate it to the city for a good cause and perhaps use it as a tax write-off. There is an old saying, "Nothing ventured, nothing gained," but perhaps a lot to be lost.

WALLY MOLE
WELLAND

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For further information, contact Dave Johnson.

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LOCAL NEWS

God gives, God takes away

GORD ABRAHAM

Port Colborne Baptist Church

On Jan. 10, at 9:14 p.m., I became a papa for the seventh time, and an orphan.

Let me back up a bit.

It all started Dec. 5, when my mom had a massive stroke in bed and was taken to hospital with great concern that she would not live long. At almost 98 years of age, she was in reasonably good health with only the limitations and weaknesses that accompany a person of that age.

The stroke made all of us realize that she would not be with us forever. This had passed through our minds, but in some sense we all thought mom was an institution, and she would just keep on going.

On Dec. 2, before her stroke, I had taken mom to an eye appointment to hear the doctor say that her eyesight was almost 20/20 in both eyes. While talking that same day, over our coffee, she came out and said

"Gord, I don't think I am going to be here much longer, would you still

consider taking my funeral?"

I tried to settle the uneasy feeling inside, even though I knew this conversation was inevitable. I agreed, acknowledging that it would not be easy for me but important for her.

During the days following mom's stroke, one family member was always with her in the hospital, sleeping overnight and spending every day at the bedside, feeding and caring for her. Over the five weeks that we had with her, all of our family had very special times with her, even though mom could not talk and was hardly able to eat or swallow water. Her frustration was evident but her trust in The Lord Jesus and her sense of humour shone through.

The night before she died, Ruth and I decided to sleep on the floor of her hospital room and then go home on the Friday morning. The nurses were great and even laughingly walked into mom's room with a fully prepared hospital bed mattress that they laid on the floor beside mom. We had a great time

with mom, playing her favourite George Beverly Shea hymns and talking about heaven. During one conversation, Ruth and I told Mom we would continue to serve The Lord and as I filled up with tears she struggled to raise her good arm up and placed it on my shoulder, as if to bless Ruth and I. That opened our tear gates.

In the early afternoon that day, we received a text from our son-in-law letting us know our daughter's "water had broken", and they were on their way to St. Catharines to give birth to their third child.

As other family gathered around my mom, we told her that we had to go and be with our daughter who

was ready to deliver mom's 18th great-grandchild. She nodded in agreement and I knew she understood.

Driving from Hamilton to the St. Catharines Hospital, to be in the delivery room with our daughter, we were conflicted in our emotions, knowing we may not see mom again in this life while going to greet a new little person.

While waiting for our daughter to deliver her baby, I received a call from my sister at 9:04 p.m., saying, "Mom has just gone". Tears and loss and sadness mixed with joy for her home going to be with Jesus.

At 11:09 p.m. that same night, Ruth and I were in the delivery room

with midwives to receive and hold a new baby girl, Joy, tears, thoughts of my mom and thanksgiving to God. The first thing that entered my mind was a passage from the Bible, "The Lord gives and The Lord takes away, blessed be the Name of The Lord".

My Mom's name is Elizabeth, my daughter's is Elizabeth and our gorgeous new baby girl is named, Grace Elizabeth. How fitting, Ruth and I are now orphans, having lost all four parents in the last few years. God is still God, Jesus is all there is to live for; God truly is good, worthy to be trusted, and worshipped.

"Blessed be the Name of The Lord"

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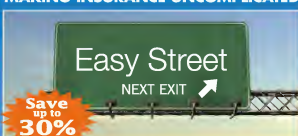
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LOCAL NEWS

■ SAUDI ARABIA

College's Taif classes men-only

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

When Niagara College takes on its latest venture in Saudi Arabia, it will do so with only men in the classroom.

The college recently learned it won a multimillion-dollar bid to operate a hospitality, tourism, culinary and business campus in Taif, a city in the country's Mecca province.

Though the five-year agreement has yet to be finalized, negotia-

tions are underway and an anticipated September start has been put in place. Tenders were issued in the fall by the Colleges of Excellence of Saudi Arabia for operation of 26 vocational and technical training colleges.

"Thirteen of the colleges are aimed at men and 13 are aimed at women. It's an even split," said Sean Kennedy, Niagara College's vice-president of student and external relations.

The college, he said, chose to bid

on the Taif campus because its programming aligned naturally with classes offered at the school's Niagara-on-the-Lake campus.

The Middle East campus will focus on training "young Saudi men," with both faculty and student positions reserved for males, Kennedy said.

Women will be allowed on campus and are expected to hold support staff positions.

Additionally, the on-campus learning enterprises — a teach-

ing hotel and restaurant — will be a "mixed-gender environment," he said.

Niagara College has been working in the Middle East nation since 2006, delivering office administration training in the cities of Riyadh and Jeddah through partnership with King Faisal Specialist Hospital and Research Centre.

The program, which is still underway, is geared mainly toward women, Kennedy said, though men have also participated.

To date, Niagara College has only hired female faculty, between five and 10 women, for the hospital program — all returning with positive feedback of their overseas experience, he said.

That feedback, he added, reinforced the college's decision to bid on the Taif campus project.

Kennedy said the college intends to continue exploring opportunities to train both men and women in Saudi Arabia, supporting "major changes initiated by the Saudi government."

"Education is a catalyst for change," he said, and the college intends to improve access to quality education through its work around the world.

The college has worked in more than 20 countries and "such is different one way or another than Canada," Kennedy said.

"It's inherently one of the joys and challenges of working abroad. Things are different," he said.

"But the hopes, dreams and aspirations of students are very much the same."

Asked about the stance of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities on single-gender classes, spokeswoman Tanya Blazina said it's

acknowledged that "all-male and all-female learning institutions are part of the education system worldwide, including in Ontario."

"I think it's important to note that Niagara College, and any other Ontario college selected to operate a college in Saudi Arabia, will be expected to operate in accordance with the laws and customs of Saudi Arabia," Blazina said.

"This will involve hiring staff and recruiting students in a manner that respects the beliefs and values of Saudi Arabia."

The Ontario college system, she said, is "held in high regard all over the world."

"We believe that when we share our knowledge and experience with other countries, we advance the values we hold in Ontario," she said.

"Education outreach to different cultures can only benefit both sides as we learn from each other."

Ontario Public Service Employees Union Local 242, which represents Niagara College faculty, had yet to have a meeting to discuss details of the project with administration.

"The fact that we're getting involved with a country where human rights are really questionable — I'm not happy about that," said union local president Sherri Rosen.

She declined to comment further until a meeting could be scheduled to learn more about the specifics of the campus.

maryanne.firth@summedia.ca

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LOCAL NEWS

March will be colder than normal

BILL SAWCHUK
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara isn't out of the cold yet, but it's a long shot.

"It looks like spring is going to be a little bit slower coming this year," Geoff Coulson, a meteorologist with Environment Canada, said. "The cold is going to hang in."

"Every winter tends to have its own story, but this winter, bar none, the story has been the cold. Even in northern Ontario where they are used to cold winters, they are remarking just how cold this winter has been."

After a brief pause in the frigid temperatures Saturday with a high

near zero, the frosty air will be right back with a vengeance. Daytime highs for Monday are expected to be -11°C, well below where they should be.

Harold Plett of St. Catharines braved the cold to test a new lens for his camera by taking photos of ducks at the Port Dalhousie pier.

"Everybody is tired of the winter," Plett said.

"I don't know how those birds stand it in that water. My son lives in California and he just had his first boy in December. He's coming in two weeks and I told him buy a snowsuit."

Joe Price of St. Catharines was walking his dogs.

"It's crazy cold," he said. "I always like the winter, but it's every day. You have to take the good with the bad. I guess. I'm tired of shovelling."

The cold conditions are expected to last throughout much of the month of March, Coulson said.

"It's the story province-wide in Ontario," Coulson said. "It's the story on the Prairies. It's the story in the U.S. The one positive sign we could be seeing is the models

only say colder than normal for March."

"The days will be getting longer. The sun will be higher and colder than normal could mean a high of 5°C or 6°C."

Niagara had an average temperature of -5.9°C for February. The average for February is usually -2.7°C, Coulson said.

"What is different about this winter is we have been consistently colder than normal for

November, December, January and February."

"A lot of folks think there has been more snow. Generally snowfall amounts are around where they should be."

"In the Niagara peninsula, you often get 10 centimetres of snow one day and three days later it is 7°C and raining and that snow is gone. It has been consistently cold this winter."

Winter officially ends March 21.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **PHOTOGRAPHY:** Gallery open until March 30, public can vote for favourite images

Explore ice caves in photos

RAY SPITERI
QMI Agency Niagara

The ice caves in Crystal Beach have been demolished, but the visual wonder of Mother Nature that formed on the shores of Lake Erie in February is being remembered through a photography exhibition this month.

More than 15 photographers are showcasing their work at the Sanctuary Centre for the Arts on Ridgeway Rd. in Ridgeway, until March 30.

Visitors to the exhibit, hosted by the Fort Erie Arts Council, can vote on the photo collection and on March 21 there will be a free awards ceremony from 5 to 8 p.m.

Thousands of people descended upon the frozen shoreline around the Family Day long weekend to catch a glimpse of the ice formations.

"It drew thousands of people's attention and we decided, 'Well, why don't we try doing an exhibit based on what everybody thinks the ice caves mean to them or look like to them?'" said Sheri Ordinario, past president of the Fort Erie Arts Council.

"We have a variety of amateur photographers all the way up to people who do photography as a hobby or as a profession."

Said visitors will be able to see close to 40 photos at the exhibit.

"There are tons of colours, tons of different view points, some with people, some without people, some at the very early stages of the ice caves all the way to the day they were



RAY SPITERI/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Fort Erie dentist Ray Ordinario is one of 16 people who will have their photos of the recent Crystal Beach ice caves on display at the Sanctuary Centre for the Arts in Ridgeway until March 30.

actually taken down by the town," said Ordinario.

Everybody can vote for what they think is the best photo, one that has the most interesting viewpoint and if they're a member of the Fort Erie Arts Council, they can place a third vote for the one that they think is their favourite.

The photographer with the most votes will be awarded a prize on March 21.

Sheri's husband, Ray Ordinario, has three photos on display.

The Fort Erie dentist, who cites photography as a hobby, said he was able to take photos before the mass of people figured out the ice caves were there.

He said he captured his images using a digital camera, two with a fish-eye lens and one with a wide-angle lens. He said he took advantage of some of the camera's built-in effects and purposely used the wrong white balance in two of the photos to give them a bit of a yellow shade.

GRANT LAFLECHE
QMI Agency Niagara

The pager has become as much a part of him as his own limbs.

Everywhere Garwin Cockhead goes, the small, black plastic device is clipped to his clothes. For six months, the 52-year-old Niagara Falls man has been waiting to hear it buzz, letting him know a new heart is waiting for him in Toronto.

"It goes everywhere with me. If I leave the house and forget it, I have to turn around and go get it," Cockhead says. "It's my lifeline."

But it's one he might soon be able to let go.

Since he suffered a heart attack in 2012, Cockhead has been waiting for the pager to go off. But after six months of rigorous training in the Niagara Health System's cardiac rehabilitation program, his condition has improved so dramatically he might be taken off the transplant list.

"They tell me this is a bit of a grey area in medicine. I could continue to improve, or I could fall back. But their goal is to keep your own heart in you as long as possible," Cockhead says.

Where once he could barely walk, he is now able to do 40 minutes of cardiac exercise under the supervision of NHS specialists.

"I'm getting back to doing some of the things I used to

do," he says. "It really came down to just wanting something better for my life."

Cockhead's medical odyssey began in August 2012 while cutting the grass at his Niagara Falls home. He started to feel a peculiar pain in his back. It spread from his spine into his arms. He started to sweat uncontrollably.

Next morning the pain and the sweating were worse. He visited his doctor, who immediately sent him to the Greater Niagara General Hospital.

It was heart attack, not a muscle spasm.

Cockhead was rushed to the Hamilton General Hospital to have a stent put in his chest to improve blood flow.

The immediate crisis had passed, but Cockhead's health was rapidly declining. The lower part of his heart had been badly damaged in the attack, requiring surgeons to implant a pacemaker and defibrillator in his chest.

Over the next several months, he grew increasingly weak and suffered painful attacks of shortness of breath caused by fluid buildup around his heart.

"It was so bad I couldn't really walk. I couldn't do anything," he says.

By spring 2013, Cockhead was a shell of his former self. But his heart appeared to have recovered somewhat.

So doctors enrolled him in the NHS cardiac rehab pro-

gram to encourage further recovery of his heart. Meanwhile, they placed Cockhead on the transplant list.

He began his physical training shocked to that pager.

NHS exercise specialist Steve Walker says the program is designed to slowly strengthen the bodies of those who have suffered cardiac problems, from people recovering from heart attacks to patients who have had major surgery.

"It helps improve what they can do every day, improve their energy, helps alleviate depression and anxiety," Walker says. "We know exercise has several benefits beyond just improving the condition of the patient's cardiac health."

Cockhead says he could not do more than five minutes of slow pedalling on a stationary bike when he started.

"I wanted something better for myself," he says. "So the first week, I could only do five minutes. OK, I thought, so I wanted to get up to six minutes by the end of the next week. Then seven. Then eight."

Now he can ride the stationary bike for 20 minutes at a time before taking a short break and doing another 20 minutes on the treadmill.

"I can see a light at the end of the tunnel now," he says. "I can see a future for myself."

grant.lafleche@sunmedia.ca
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LOCAL NEWS

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police say more stun guns a good idea

BILL SAWCHUK

QMI Agency Niagara

The facts speak for themselves, say the Niagara Regional Police — the more Tasers they have on the street, the less force police need to use.

"Here is what happens," said Const. Jay Wooley of the NRP's training unit. "The police show up. A guy has already assaulted someone. He's aggressive. He says he's not going to jail. He's swearing at us."

The sergeant shows up with a Taser. The next thing you know, a guy who was going to fight three or four officers says I don't want any part of that.

"We move in and cuff him, and there are no injuries to anyone."

The statistics back up what Wooley said after a presentation to the Police Services Board Thursday, as the service prepares to give Tasers to

its frontline officers.

The rate of injuries sustained from the use of a Taser are far lower than other non-lethal, use-of-force options available to police such as the baton, pepper spray or empty hands, according to NRP statistics.

From 2010 to 2013, Tasers were used 80 times. There were two injuries to citizens and seven to police. The injuries to police occurred in altercations before an officer with a Taser arrived on the scene.

The injury rate skyrocketed when baton, pepper spray or empty hands are used. These methods were used 289 times, resulting in 118 injuries to citizens and 47 to police.

"The less violent, the better for us," Wooley said.

"We don't want to get in fights. It's a long career. The last thing we want to do is be mixing it up with people. The Taser can reduce that."

Niagara Region council agreed to put \$670,000 back into the police budget recently, the estimated cost to buy stun guns for its frontline NRP officers.

The NRP already has 59 conducted energy weapons for its specialized units and uniformed supervisors. On Aug. 27, the province announced it would allow the use of Tasers by frontline officers.

The Taser incapacitates a victim using an electric shock that disrupts the brain's signals and causes pain and muscle contractions. Usually, there are no lasting effects.

There are fears Tasers will be misused by police. Tasers have turned deadly when used on a person who is highly agitated, or if someone is continuously or repeatedly jolted.

Individuals with hearing loss or other non-visible disabilities and who might wrongly



JULIE JOSEBAK / QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Sgt. Mike Waters holds a taser at Niagara Regional Police Headquarters in December. The NRP have asked for more than half a million dollars for tasers.

appear to not be complying when police issue commands are vulnerable.

A key part of the training strategy is helping officers de-escalate confrontations, so the use of a Taser isn't necessary, Wooley said.

"It's a very real concern and the ministry has recognized

that," he said. "We have always recognized that."

"The best way is talking. Ask them what is bothering them. Ask how we can help. We want to talk to people, not just threaten the use of force or repeatedly say, 'You are under arrest.'"

"We want to break that cycle, calm you down and get you to come on your own free will."

Niagara Regional Police Chief Jeff McGuire said the plan to provide Tasers to frontline officers is nearly com-

plete.

"We will be reporting to (the police board) in a month," he said of the deployment. "The legislation already permits us to do this. We will consult with the board and inform them what will be the best deployment model for us."

"We have capital money set aside in the budgeting process. We will have to make some purchases and arrange a training schedule and get them deployed."

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **POLITICS:** New legislation introduced

Province fighting back against invasive species

ANTONELLA ARTURO
QMI Agency

With Asian carp literally at its border, Ontario is introducing invasive species legislation that would create a legal "toolbox" to fight back, said Natural Resources Minister David Orzietti.

The bill, if passed into law, could allow the government to prohibit the importation of Asian carp that has not been gutted, Orzietti said.

Carp brought in on ice, supposedly dead, have been known to revive, earning themselves the nickname zombie fish.

"In the past few years, we've been hearing more and more about invasive species," Orzietti said Wednesday. "Asian carp have overwhelmed some rivers in the United States and have already made their way into the U.S. tributaries of the Great Lakes."

"Now they are at our doorstep and threatening to invade Ontario waters."

The arrival of Asian carp would devastate the province's commercial fishery. Dennis Cartier, secretary treasurer of the Ontario Commercial Fisheries Association, told QMI Agency Niagara.

"I think if they do get moving on it, it will be a wonderful thing," Cartier said of the proposed legislation. "We're really concerned in this industry about the effect things like Asian carp are going to have on the ecosystem of the Great Lakes. And we don't need a lot of action from any government level right now."

The arrival of Asian carp could force out other native species.

While other invasive species that have entered the Great Lakes, such as zebra mussels and gobies, have not had an effect on the commercial fishery, Cartier said Asian carp pose a significant threat.

"Everybody is convinced, every expert you talk to says that the Asian carp will be a different problem altogether. They're so big, they're so fast-reproducing and they do so much



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Michigan Congresswoman Candice Miller will introduce a bill calling for construction of a physical barrier to keep Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. It is feared that the invasive species (pictured) will push out other fish if it makes it into the Great Lakes.

damage to the ecosystem when they get into it."

Zebra mussels block pipes and dampen people's enjoyment of the natural environment, Orzietti said.

"Invasive species pose a threat to our economy and our environment, costing the Ontario economy tens of millions of dollars each year," he said. "They put our resource-based jobs at risk in our forestry industry and commercial fisheries and agriculture, in tourism and more."

A report to St. Catharines city council in early February said the invasive emerald ash borer has felled about 350 city-owned ash trees and the Asian long-horned beetle is poised to invade within the next few years.

Nearly half of the city's trees — 45% — are species vulnerable to the beetle, the report said.

Other examples of invasive species are the giant hogweed, a toxic plant that can raise blisters on skin, and the mountain pine beetle that has destroyed millions of acres of pine trees in British Columbia.

If the Invasive Species Act were to pass, it would be the first stand-alone legislation of its kind in Canada, Orzietti said.

— with files from Standard Staff

■ **POLICE:** Man takes car from Port Colborne store thinking it was his

A case of mistaken car-dentity

QMI Agency Niagara

A case of car confusion in Port Colborne Thursday yielded a warning not to leave vehicles running while unattended.

It began at about 11:30 p.m. when a car was reported stolen from the Clarence St. 7-Eleven.

It was returned shortly after, however, once the driver realized he had taken the wrong vehicle, said Niagara Regional Police Staff Sgt. Chris Scotland. The car had been left running in the parking lot.

"It was a general mistake," Scotland said, as the man had gotten into a car that was similar to his own.

Police responded but no charges were laid.

"We always want to remind people that it's not a good idea to leave your car running while unattended," said NRP spokesman

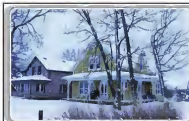
Const. Rich Gadreau. "That extra second it takes to turn the key off is not going to make a difference."

Vehicles are commonly left running in the winter as drivers wait indoors for them to warm up, but this puts them at risk for possible theft, Gadreau said.

Even when left running for a few brief moments while popping into a store, a car can be at risk, he said, citing Thursday's incident as a prime example of how quickly a vehicle can be taken.



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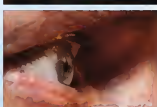
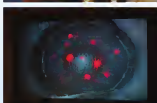
Dr. Andrew Taylor knows how challenging it can be for consumers deciding on laser vision correction procedures. Understandably anyone would be confused by the wide range of fees associated with laser eye surgery. Some centers are offering quotes as low as \$299 per eye with very vague guarantees. Consumers have caught on to the fact that these fees are never really as low as they seem. If you can't trust the advertised price, then how can you trust that provider to perform your surgery? These are your eyes, and the best guarantee in laser eye surgery comes directly from your surgeon, equipment and the professional staff that support both.

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RINGWORM



LARRY BOGGIO
R.Ph. B.Sc. Pharm.

Ringworm is a common name for fungal skin infections. These types of infections are also referred to as tinea. They affect approximately 10% to 20% of the population. Ringworm appears as rings or round red patches with clear centers and red, scaly borders. Tinea can affect the scalp, nails, or skin.

Management for superficial fungal infections involves some simple non-drug methods, and over-the-counter remedies in the form of sprays lotions and creams. Affected individuals should try to reduce moisture in the affected area. Loose-fitted clothing made of cotton or material that absorbs moisture should be worn. The skin should be dried completely before covering with clothing. If the infection involves the feet, flip flops should be worn with bare feet to prevent spread to others and reinfection.

There are also many topical antifungal agents available. Examples include CANESTEN CREAM (clotrimazole), NIZORAL SHAMPOO (ketoconazole), and MONISTAT-DERM (miconazole), to name a few. Creams and solutions are useful because they can be rubbed into the area. Solutions work in hairy areas because they are easier to apply. Powders can serve as useful additions to creams and solutions. They are helpful when the infection is wet or oozing, or where a drying agent is needed. When applying the antifungal product it should be applied to the lesion as well as one to two inches around the lesion. The antifungal should also be used for one to two weeks after lesions clear to reduce the rate of recurrence.

Patients who have diabetes, or those who are immunosuppressed may need prescription oral therapy. It is best for your doctor to assess these fungal infections. Fungal infections of the nail are also resistant to over-the-counter treatment.

There are some home remedies for treating nail fungus. Patients have tried applying VICKS VapoRub and tea tree oil. There is not a lot of evidence to suggest the efficacy of these products for this condition, however some people may wish to try them before resorting to an oral medication.

If you think you may be affected by a fungal infection there are a number of treatment options available. Most issues can be resolved with some persistence and the proper product. Please speak to your pharmacist about what option is best for you.

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■ HEALTH

Funding sought to keep kids fit

MARYANNE FIRTH
QMI Agency Niagara

Port Colborne wants to play a role in ensuring local youngsters stay fit.

The city has thrown its support behind a joint project coming together between Niagara Region and its 12 municipalities.

An application is in the works for the Healthy Kids Community Challenge, a provincial program that lets communities create and grow programs to teach children healthy eating habits, the importance of physical activity and good sleeping habits.

The funding program was recently announced by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to help address the climbing rate of childhood obesity in Ontario.

Through the program, 30 communities will be selected to receive up to \$1.5 million over four years.

Municipal representatives met Friday to discuss how to proceed



We know that globally, nationally and locally overweight and obesity is on the rise. We want to address that in a comprehensive way."

Linda Beyer

with the funding application, opting for Niagara Region to take the lead, Harry Hakim, Port Colborne's manager of community services, told city council Monday night.

The project will focus on priority neighbourhoods that have the highest needs from across all municipalities. These will be determined by health indicator data obtained by Niagara Region public health from community partners and statistical reports.

"This project is important because it's about the health of our kids," said public health project co-ordinator Linda Beyer.

"We know that globally, nationally and locally overweight and obesity is on the rise. We want to address that in a comprehensive way."

Since the funding announcement was made in late January,

public health and participating municipalities have been working to ensure an application can be sent in by the March 14 deadline, Beyer said.

All 12 municipalities have verbally signed on, she added, though formal letters of support are expected to roll in over the next couple of weeks.

School boards, private enterprises and municipal recreation departments have also come on board as key partners in the project and Niagara's mayors will be deemed Community Champions of the Initiative.

If the application is successful, a project manager will be hired, paid for in part by the participating municipalities. The amount each community contributes will be based on population, ranging from \$500 to \$5,500.

Hakim estimated Port Colborne's contribution to be \$500 to \$1,000.

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LOCAL NEWS

■ **COURT:** Will serve jail on weekends

Trucker jailed for leaving fatal accident scene

TONY RICCIUTO
QMI Agency Niagara

A truck driver from Brampton who failed to remain at the scene of an accident that killed an 11-year-old boy on the QEW in Lincoln, has been sentenced to 90 days in jail.

Dalinder Sandhu, 29, returned to court Thursday for sentencing in front of Judge David Harris of the Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines.

The judge said a conditional sentence, which is a form of house arrest, or a suspended sentence were not appropriate because Sandhu committed a serious offence and tried to escape civil or criminal liability by failing to stop and offer assistance to others at the scene.

During an earlier court appearance, Sandhu pleaded

guilty to failing to remain at the scene after being involved in an accident July 17, 2012. His tractor-trailer struck the back of a slow-moving Ford van that was filled with a family and their friends.

The group was returning to Toronto after spending the day in Niagara Falls.

Laszlo Balog Jr. of Toronto was killed and eight other people were seriously injured.

Court was told Karoly Lakatos, 23, of Toronto who was driving the van, caused the accident. The van started to have mechanical difficulties and the driver turned on the four-way flashers at first, but decided to turn them off to avoid drawing police attention because he didn't have a driver's licence or insurance.

Lakatos pleaded guilty to a

charge of dangerous driving causing death during an earlier court appearance and was sentenced to 18 months in jail. Lakatos was to be deported to Hungary following completion of his sentence.

The judge said Sandhu has accepted full responsibility for his offence and has expressed remorse. Until now, he had no criminal record and has been a productive and contributing member of society.

The judge has allowed Sandhu to serve his 90-day sentence on weekends. He must also perform 150 hours of community service and has been placed on probation for three years.

A number of restrictions have been placed on Sandhu's driving privileges.

tony.ricciuto@sunmedia.ca

■ **JUSTICE:** Sandie Bellows thought her fight to have Peter John Peters kept in jail was over.

Killer shatters a woman's peace

GRANT LAFECHE
QMI Agency Niagara

Two and a half months ago, Sandie Bellows was at peace.

It was a state of mind and spirit she rarely experiences, for there was always the worry that someday, somehow her nightmare made flesh would return and finish the job he started in 1990.

After all, when the St. Catharines woman narrowly escaped Peter John Peters' clutches after being raped and repeatedly stabbed, he made a promise.

"He told me if I was responsible for putting him behind bars, he'd get out and kill me," Bellows says.

But 2½ months ago, the National Parole Board, after hearing Bellows' emotional plea about how Peters had so deeply scarred her life, ruled Peters would not be granted the privilege of temporary day releases.

He would spend the rest of the three life sentences he is serving inside his Abbotsford, B.C. prison cell for the attack on Bellows and the murders of two other people.

"They said he was too much of a risk," Bellows says.

"I was so happy, I felt so victorious. I left free."

Until Tuesday and that phone call.

It was a matter-of-fact call from Corrections Services Canada. Although denied by the parole board, Bellows was told, Peters was trying again, this time by appealing directly to the prison warden to have



JULIE NOZAK/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Twenty-four years ago, Sandie Bellows was abducted, raped and nearly killed. Her attacker, Peter John Peters, is still seeking some limited freedoms — a move Bellows is opposing.

escorted day passes.

Her peace was shattered. "I was deflated. It felt like I was just sinking deeper and deeper into my couch," Bellows says. "The fight isn't over."

In 1990, Peters had already killed two people when he kidnapped Bellows. He captured her in her own car in St. Catharines, drove her to Windsor and raped and repeatedly stabbed her.

It was the fortuitous arrival on scene of a farmer who happened to be a retired OPP officer that saved her life.

Peters was sentenced to three concurrent life sentences. He has applied for parole in the past, but always withdraws the request at the last minute.

Bellows said he has had some escorted day releases in the past, during which he started a relationship with a woman.

In 2007, he escaped from a minimum security prison in B.C. but was recaptured 24 hours later.

"That is still fresh. That did not happen that long ago," Bellows says.

She faced Peters during his December parole hearing.

"I was very emotional, obviously, but I was determined not to let him get to me," she says of reading her victim impact statement to the parole board. "He addressed me. He said he knew his attack on me was brutal, but he never apologized. There was no remorse. There never has been."

Bellows said Corrections Canada told her Peters is now asking for escorted releases for personal development reasons. Typically, such releases are for addiction or mental health treatment programs not offered in prison.

"If he needs a program, he can have one inside. But he shouldn't be allowed out," she says. "I am fighting this for myself and for others."

Bellows has to file written submission to the warden by March 12, and a decision has to be made by March 22.

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IN BRIEF

White winter hasn't put Port in the red

Despite the winter wallop Port Colborne has received this season, the city is still faring well with its budget.

During Monday night's city council meeting, director of engineering and operations Ron Hanson told councillors the lakeside city is "still in pretty good shape" and coming in under budget for its winter operations.

There have, however, been a few bumps in the road. As of mid-February, Port Colborne is over budget for snow plowing. Several storms hit the city on weekends, Hanson said, which resulted in overtime expenses being incurred.

Port Colborne originally budgeted \$90,000 for plowing, but has already spent more than \$97,000. Though plowing resulted in additional costs, the city still sits at about \$30,300 under its projected budget, he said.

With winter not quite over yet, Hanson said the numbers will likely continue to adjust.

Canal memorial designers short-listed

Four design firms have been short-listed to create a memorial to honour the 130 men who died building the Welland Canal.

The Welland Canal Fallen Workers Memorial Task Force made the announcement Friday.

The short list, chosen from 31 submissions, includes Toronto's Eldon Garnet, who created the Chinese Railroad Workers Memorial in downtown Toronto and the Derek Revington Studio, which created The Luminous Well on the side of the Prince Edward Viaduct in Toronto.

Muse Atelier firm of Vancouver is responsible for the Police Officers and Firefighters Tribute Plaza in downtown Calgary.

Finally, Reinhard Reitzenstein of Grimsby and Wik Associates Landscape Architect Ltd. of Toronto have teamed up on projects in the past, including Kernaston Gardens Park and Distant Bridge projects in Toronto.

St. Catharines Cultural Planning Supervisor Rebecca Carn said the goal is to have four draft designs by mid summer and a final selection as early as the fall.

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BIZZLINE

Rich competition for new Buffalo businesses

Got an idea for a business in Buffalo?

A huge new U.S. business plan competition called 43North may have a pile of prize money waiting for winning concepts.

The Buffalo Business Plan Competition is offering \$5 million in prizes and a grand award of \$1 million for an entrepreneur willing to start a new business there, starting in January.

Among the prizes are six of \$500,000 and four of \$250,000. Winners get free incubator space for a year, and guidance from mentors and access to incentive programs.

"This is about generating enthusiasm and interest in the whole eco-system of Buffalo, Niagara and the GTA," said Andrew Pulkrabek, executive director of 43North.

"And that's in terms of advanced

manufacturing, life sciences and technology-type business."

Pulkrabek said the intention is to "promote this region on a global stage so people can look at the overall opportunities that exist here when they choose to build a high-growth potential business."

It's open to people ages 18 and over anywhere in the world and in any industry, with the exception of retail and hospitality.

Winners must agree to operate their business in Buffalo for a minimum of a year.

The competition is staged in three rounds, with the first taking applications for prospective businesses through the website 43North.org until May 31.

Round 2 takes place from Sept. 15 to 20, and requires about 50 semifinalists to present their business plan in fleshed out detail.

In the final stage, from Oct. 27 to 31, top 11 finalists pitch their

business in person to a panel of judges in Buffalo, with the awards presented then.

The New York Power Authority has provided \$5.4 million for the business competition project.

In the meantime, 43North staff members are on a roadshow to various international spots, including Canada.

Pulkrabek said he takes the view that the competition acknowledges the broader binational area can benefit all, as businesses work collaboratively and provide economic economies of scale.

"A testament to that is all of the technology development in southern Ontario and also into western New York," he said. "All of this is building toward our overall (business) ecosystem."

"If we train them, you folks hire them — or vice-versa — we all benefit through that mix."

Credit union merger discussed

Merger discussions continue between the Fort Erie Credit Union and PenFinancial Credit Union.

Both are Niagara-based, with any merged organization having more than \$420 million in assets, 94 employees and eight branches across the region to serve 19,000 members.

Plans are to finalize any merger by July 1, with a new credit union adopting the PenFinancial Credit Union name and brand.

School contest

Students at Brock University's Goodman School of Business will compete for a prize package that includes mentoring,

business services and cash at the Monster Pitch event on Tuesday.

Dragons' Den hosts Jim Treveling and Bruce Croxon will join a panel where pre-selected students will pitch business proposals.

The annual event, with admission by invitation only, is organized by the Brock University Entrepreneurship Club.

This year's winning pitch will earn the future entrepreneurs a grant of \$3,000 to put toward their business ideas.

The Standard's Bizzline column normally appears weekly. Send your north Niagara business story/information tips to: don.fraser@sunmedia.ca or call 905-684-7251, ext. 1161.



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■ **BORDER SECURITY:** Pilot project underway at Peace Bridge in Fort Erie

Pre-inspections aim to cut wait times

SARAH FERGUSON
QMI Agency Niagara

Two Niagara Regional Police officers will monitor activity as U.S. customs officers take part in a pre-inspection pilot program involving cargo at the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie.

To reduce wait times and traffic congestion, commercial vehicles will undergo primary inspection in Canada before heading over the border into the U.S.

"It's a complex thing, and this kind of situation has never really happened before," Staff Sgt. Steve Tchang said.

"We have American border customs officers and they're armed and have some use-of-force options for their safety," he said.

Regional police will be on hand during the pilot program's hours of operation to "enforce Canadian law," Tchang said.

Ron Rienas, the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Peace Bridge Authority's general manager, said the pilot project was put in place last week and runs from Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The pilot project at the Peace Bridge is considered the second phase of a larger program. The first phase was a Proof of Concept designed to test the feasibility of an inspection program and was conducted at the Pacific Highway crossing in Blaine, Wash., and Surrey, BC, Rienas said.

The pilot project being conducted at the Peace Bridge as a partnership between

the Peace Bridge Authority, Canada's Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Rienas said officers will inspect trucks on the Canadian side at two new booths to avoid backups and traffic congestion at the bridge.

After trucks are processed on the Canadian side, truck drivers will cross the bridge where they will come to a border patrol exit booth.

Truck drivers will either be given a green light signalling they are free to proceed or a red light, which signals they must stop for further processing.

Rienas said the new pilot cargo inspection program is a result of Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President Barack Obama's Beyond the Border Action Plan, which focuses on improving Canadian and U.S. border safety.

Since the project is still in its testing stages, Rienas said the public would not notice any major changes while crossing the border.

But if the pilot project is successful, Rienas said it would improve border wait times.

"Right now, it's just a pilot project and the full benefits will not be realized," Rienas said.

"If we have full implementation later on, we'll have 12 booths constructed as opposed to two and it will be a 72% increase in input."



NADY ROBERTSON/SPECIAL TO QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

A pre-inspection pilot program was unveiled at the Peace Bridge in Fort Erie this week.

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INPORT NEWS

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2014

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MARCH 7

RED CROSS BABYSITTER

course offered at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This fun, interactive course teaches youths aged 11 to 15 how to be prepared and responsive caregivers. Cost \$45. Bring a lunch and a doll or teddy bear. Call 905-899-1277 to register by March 3 as space is limited.

WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

is observed at 2:30 p.m. at Welland Public Library. Listen to stories, play some games and help make a "story quilt" that will be showcased in the library's front entrance when complete.

PASTA DINNER

at Bethel United Church, 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Adults \$10, children four to 10 \$5. Silent auction also. For tickets call 905-704-9095 or 905-735-6467.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Streams in the Desert is the theme of this year's World Day of Prayer written by the women of Egypt. For the churches of Wainfleet, this will take place at Wainfleet Brethren in Christ Church on Perry Rd. at 1:30 p.m.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

service at St. John's Stevensville United Church, 14789 Sodom Rd., Snyder, 1 p.m. For more information call Phyllis at 905-871-5968.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

service will be held at Fonthill Baptist Church, 1414 Pelham St. at 2 p.m. Rev. Heather Myers will be speaker.

MARCH 8

MONSTER MISCHIEF

runs 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Welland Public Library for all ages.

FAMILY FLICKS

The Diamond Trail branch of Welland Public Library is showing Khumba at 1 p.m. The movie is free and runs for 85 minutes.

MARCH 9

NFB FILM AT LIBRARY

Welland Public Library is showing National Film Board of Canada production Chi. Canadian actress Babz Chula invites you to witness her battle with cancer and her journey into the unknown. The film begins at 2 p.m. and is free.

MARCH 10

PORT COLBORNE HISTORICAL

Society meets at 7 p.m. at Port Village Retirement Home. Guest Tom Whitelaw from the Canadian Canal Society will speak on the Rideau Canal. All welcome. For more info call 905-834-4343.

DATEBOOKS CONTINUE ON PAGE 26

FROM PAGE 24

WANT YOUR NON-PROFIT EVENT INCLUDED?

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IMPORT DATEBOOK

FROM PAGE 24

MARCH 11

SECULAR HUMANISTS

meet at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Congregation Building, 223 Church St., St. Catharines. Rev. Mary Tringely of Carillon United Church speaks on "Recreating Liberal Christianity." Niagara Secular Humanists has free snacks and non-alcoholic refreshments available for members and visitors. Entrance free for members, \$4 per visit for non-members. For additional info and to RSVP call 905-641-2603 or visit nsh.humanists.ca.

MARCH 12

RAINBOW PRAYERS

This prayer gathering offers a unique opportunity to experience prayers from many religions — Jewish, Buddhist, Islamic, Baha'i, Hindu, Christian — and to appreciate their common threads of meaning and devotion. Light refreshments and discussion, 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at Wesley United Church, 244 First Ave., Welland. These free meetings occur regularly every other Wednesday and are sponsored by the Baha'is of Welland.

MARCH 13

PASTA NIGHT AT CASA DANTE

Takeout dinners are available for \$8 from 3 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sauce, meatballs, minestrone soup, and pasta fagioli are also available for takeout.

MARCH 14

ST. PATRICK'S DAY DANCE

to support the Kacey Lynn Fund is at the CAW Hall on Steel St. in Welland. Tickets are \$10. Door prizes, auction table and spot dances with music by Rural Roots starting at 9 p.m. Doors open at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the door or by calling Mary Dolan at 905-735-9526.

MARCH 15

DUCKS UNLIMITED

Port Colborne hosts a dinner and auction at Brebeuf Hall. Early bird draw Feb. 21. For tickets call Sharon at 905-834-9556.

MARCH 16

HUNGARIAN SPRING LUNCH

at the Hungarian Hall, 361 Hellens Ave., Welland. 12:30 p.m. At 2 p.m. will be a commemorative program to remember the March 15, 1848, revolution. Menu: vegetable soup, cabbage rolls, breaded

chicken, potato, salad, coffee, tea and dessert. Tickets: Adult \$20, children \$10. For tickets call: Anna at 905-735-0559, Eva at 905-734-3593 or Tibor at 905-735-6447.

MARCH 17

FREE EMPLOYMENT HELP

Learn how to create a job-winning resume and cover letter. Presented at Pelham Public Library, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., by Niagara College Employment and Training Solutions. Register ahead by calling 905-892-6443.

MARCH 20

LEGO TIME

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Children of all ages are invited to drop-in to build a Lego or Duplo creation. Do not bring your own Lego.

MARCH 22

PADDLE AUCTION

for the Pathfinders runs 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Goodwill building, Plymouth Rd., Welland. It's a fundraiser for the Welland Pathfinder's trip to Europe. Many vendors to choose from. Bring your quarters.

MARCH 24

BOOK SALE

running on March 29 at Pelham Public Library. Gently-used books for sale, games, puzzles, CDs, DVDs and more. On the 29th fill a grocery bag for \$2.

MARCH 27

CLASSIC BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. This month's selection is My Antonia by Willa Cather. Call 905-899-1277 to register as a book club member.

MARCH 31

EVENING BOOK CLUB

at Wainfleet Township Public Library, 6:30 p.m. This month's selection is Vanishing Acts by Jodi Picoult. Call 905-899-1277 to register as a book club member.

WILD WEST SHOWMAN

Tom Bishop Sr. of Ridgewill will talk about his career as producer of Wild West show and being a trick rider, stunt man and animal wrangler. This year, Tom Bishop's 48 Ranch Productions is celebrating 100 years, as a third generation carries on with "North America's Only Surviving Wild West Show." Starts 7 p.m. Cost \$4. Register ahead.

APRIL 2

NSNP

Niagara Spay Neuter Assistance Program is holding a spring Easier sale and fundraiser, April 2 to 5 in front of the Fairview Mall Zehrs. New and nearly new gift items, housewares, clothing, jewelry, baking and more. All funds go to spay/neuter in Niagara. Donations, cat food and volunteers gratefully accepted. Contact 289-897-8514 or see www.niagaraspayneuterassistance.org.

APRIL 6

EASTER EXTRAVAGANZA

for Welland Pathfinders and Rangers runs 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4, 383 Morningstar Ave., Welland. Penny table, straw game, children's games and egg decorating. Lunch and refreshments available.

APRIL 13

BECAUSE YOU CARE

spring fashion show and luncheon in support of Walker Family Cancer Centre in St. Catharines will be held at Riverstone Event Centre in Welland, featuring fashions and accessories showcased by 270+ West Casual Ladies Wear and Monica's of Welland, fine quality intimate apparel and mastectomy fitting. Doors open at 12:30 p.m.

and the day will also include lunch, entertainment by the Martin Sisters, raffle prizes, door prizes and a special gift for all attendees. Tickets are \$40, available at Monica's of Welland, 86 West Main St., or 270+ West, 241 Main St., Port Colborne.

ONGOING

E-READERS

and Chrometbooks are now available for loan at Port Colborne Public Library. Drop by the library for more information.

ECUMENICAL LENTEN

services are being held at St. James & St. Brendan Church, 55 Charlotte St., Port Colborne, featuring a guest speaker and music. The noon services are every Thursday from March 20 to April 17, followed by a soup and bread lunch. Price of lunch is \$5.

ART ON THE WALL

at Welland Civic Square features Alex Bosco throughout February, a display of etched aluminum. Call 905-735-4463 if you'd like to display your work.

\$5 BAG SALE

at the St. Vincent de Paul store, 51 East Main St., Welland, Feb. 24 to March 1. Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Vitamin C and Lysine Powder Help Prevent Heart Attacks

W. Gifford-Jones, MD

Why is heart attack the number one killer in this country?

Ninety-nine percent of doctors say it's due to atherosclerosis (hardening of arteries) and that cholesterol lowering drugs are the primary way to treat it. But I suggest cardiologists have closed minds and are ignoring facts that could save thousands of North Americans from coronary attack.

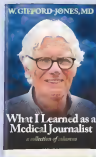
Years later Dr. Linus Pauling, two-time Nobel Prize winner, is ignored for reporting that large amounts of vitamin C and lysine are needed to prevent coronary attacks. Twenty-five years ago Pauling reported that animals make vitamin C and humans do not. That's why sailors died of scurvy during long sea voyages, but the ship's cat survived.

Vitamin C is required to manufacture healthy collagen, the glue that holds coronary cells together, just like mortar is needed for bricks. Lysine, like steel rods in cement, makes collagen stronger. Pauling claimed it takes a mere 10 milligrams to prevent scurvy, but several thousand to prevent heart attack.

Williams Stehbens, Professor of Anatomy at Wellington University in New Zealand, proved Pauling was right. Stehbens' research showed that coronary arteries closest to the heart are under the greatest pressure. This causes collagen to fracture resulting in the formation of a blood clot and death.

Dr. Sydney Bush, an English researcher, has now proved that vitamin C can reverse atherosclerosis. Bush took retinal photographs, then started his patients on high doses of vitamin C and lysine. One year later additional pictures showed atherosclerosis had regressed in retinal arteries.

So what has happened to these monumental findings? Bush, like Semmelweis, has been ridiculed by cardiologists. One has to ask whether cardiologists, by ignoring his results, are condemning thousands of people to an early coronary heart attack.



FREE

Step by the stars for a FREE copy of Dr. Gifford Jones' 'What I Learned as a Medical Journalist'. No purchase necessary. Limited quantities. While supplies last.

Fourteen years ago following my own coronary attack, cardiologists claimed it was sheer madness for me to refuse cholesterol-lowering drugs. Instead, I decided to take high doses of vitamin C plus lysine with breakfast and the evening meal, for several reasons.

I knew that Dr. Graveline, a physician and NASA astronaut, had twice developed transient global amnesia from taking Lipitor. I was also aware that patients have died from CLDs. Others have developed kidney, liver and muscle complications. I also believed the research of Pauling and Stehbens irrefutable. Now, the work of Dr. Bush has convinced me my decision was prudent.

But to take large doses of vitamin C and lysine requires swallowing many pills daily. It's a tall order for those who dislike swallowing one pill. So for several years I've been trying to find a company that would manufacture a combination of vitamin C and lysine powder. Now **Medi-C Plus** is available at health food stores.

The dosage for the **Medi-C Plus** combination is one flat scoop with breakfast and the evening meal. Those at greater risk should take one flat scoop three times a day. If high doses cause diarrhea, the dose should be decreased.

This column does not recommend that those taking CLDs should stop them. This is a decision that can only be made by patients and doctors.

Most of today's cardiologists are impervious to persuasion. They continue to believe that cholesterol-lowering drugs are the be-all-and-end-all to prevent heart attack. They've been brain-washed by millions of dollars worth of promotion by pharmaceutical companies. It reminds me of the saying that cautions "It's not what you don't know what gets you into trouble, it's the things you know for sure that ain't so!"

It's time for cardiologists to have an open mind and stop ignoring this research. As for me – I bet my life on it!



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